

REMARKS

The Office action of December 23, 2003, has been carefully considered.

Claim 46 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in the reference to the "vehicle body" since the claim is directed to a panel and the vehicle body is not an element of the invention.

Claim 46 has therefore been amended to recite that the molding body has a sealing lip that extends outwardly from the molding body, the sealing lip being more elastic than the molding body.

Withdrawal of this rejection is accordingly requested.

Claims 24 through 26 and 29 through 45 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Mozawa et al in view of Adler et al. Claims 28 and 46 have also been rejected as obvious over the same combination of references.

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the interview granted by the Examiner on February 12, 2004, during which interview the differences between the invention as claimed and the cited art were discussed. In particular, the Office action alleges that Mozawa et al discloses a panel unit including a cover tape 9 interleaved between the extension and panel outer surface, the cover tape having a cutting surface formed thereon which aligns with a cutting surface of the extension, the cutting surface being at the edge of the extension. The Office action also states that the glass pane is covered with a substantially opaque frit layer 7.

Applicants disagree strongly with this interpretation of Mozawa et al.

Structure 9 shown in the drawings is defined at column 5, lines 2 through 9. It is stated there that window plate 2 is formed with an opaque printed layer 9 on its rear peripheral

surface which serves to cover an adhesive material layer and an associated dam rubber between the window plate 2 and the automobile body panel such that they are not visible from outside. Thus, it is layer 9 of Mozawa et al which corresponds to the substantially opaque frit layer 6 coated onto surface 2b of windshield 2 according to the claimed invention; these layers do not meet the definition of a "tape."

In the present application, the term "tape" is used in its normal sense as being a flexible band or ribbon which is applied to the panel unit between the *in situ* formed molding and the panel surface (claim 24) or on the outer panel surface adjacent the molding (claim 26). This tape is clearly not an opaque printed layer as is layer 9 of Mozawa et al and the corresponding layer 6 of the present application.

Moreover, it is noted that structure 7 of Mozawa et al is defined at column 4, lines 53 through 65 as a connection layer, arranged between the window plate 2 and the surface of the foamed main portion 5, and firmly connected to window plate 2 with an adhesive material layer therebetween. This connection layer is composed of an appropriate hard or semi-hard type synthetic resin material containing either only a relatively small amount of plasticizer or substantially no plasticizer, and having a relatively low dielectric loss. This connection layer cooperates with the intermediate film 4 of the window plate 2 to form a fusion-bonded region 8 therebetween.

Connection layer 7 is thus an intermediate layer between the foamed body and the panel and is preferably formed simultaneously with the main body. This layer is a layer of the main body, and not a tape which is applied to the panel.

It is noted moreover that Mozawa et al does not disclose the presence of a connection layer on an outer surface of the panel substantially adjacent to the frame body.

Adler et al has been cited to show a panel with a chamfered edge, and also does not cure the defect of the Mozawa et al reference, as Adler et al does not disclose a cover tape between or adjacent the molding and the panel surface.

As Mozawa et al does not disclose or suggest any element which could be defined as a "cover tape" disposed between or adjacent a molding and the panel body, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited combination of references, and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Claims 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Endoh et al in view of Adler et al.

In Endoh et al, the Office action alleges that element 42 corresponds to the cover tape of the invention, disposed on an outer panel surface substantially adjacent to the formed molding.

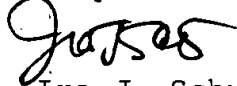
Element 42 is shown only in Figures 3, 12, 18 and 22, all of which are directed to a transparent plate member 14 secured in a mold 36 including upper and lower molds 38 and 40, respectively. This transparent plate member is mounted through a sealing member or damping material 42 on the lower mold 40 (see col. 5, lines 48-51), and upper mold 38 is lowered to contact transparent plate member 14 through another sealing member 42. Accordingly, sealing member 42 is an element of the upper and lower mold surfaces, and is used to "seal" the mold against the escape of molten plastic during the molding process.

Importantly, element 42 is only seen in those drawings which show the mold 36 itself, Figures 3, 12, 18 and 22, and *is not shown in any of the other drawings which show the result of the molding process.* Indeed, if one observes the placement of sealing material 42 and compares the figures showing the mold with the figures showing the result of the molding process, it can be seen that there is no sealing material on the transparent plate member 14 in the corresponding areas.

Accordingly, Endoh et al does not disclose or suggest a panel unit having a cover tape disposed on an outer surface of the panel substantially adjacent to an *in situ* formed molding, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Schultz
Registration No. 28666